

REMARKS

Applicant submits the within Preliminary Amendment, which is filed in connection with the above identified continuation application.

The Amendment amends the claims to recite that a spreader is at the leading and trailing ends of the book being bound, to compensate for the first and last holes having bridge distances from the respective ends of the book which are greater than the spacing between the holes.

The only patent cited previously by the Examiner in the prior parent patent application filed under serial number was U.S. patent no. 5,931,623 of Hastings. But what the Examiner refers to as the "spreader" in Hastings just guides the coil segments all at the same pitch.

In contrast, the spreader of the present invention spreads apart the coils of the spiral at leading and trailing holes of the book to be bound. The spreader changes the bridge distance to insert the first coil segment into the first hole.

Furthermore, Hastings does not stretch or contract the coil. Hastings can't have different distances between holes, such as the first hole being farther away from the edge than the distance between the rest of the holes.

The "spreader" 290 designated by the Examiner when referring to Figure 6 of Hastings is reality a series of curved guides for all the spirals, not a pair of separate

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING


I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is
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Commissioner of Patents
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on the date indicated below.

Date: November 2, 2001



~~Jackie Percan~~
A. Fred Walker

FOOTNOTES